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Sharon Kendrick 4521 Terra Granada Drive #5B Walnut Creek, CA 94595

May 14, 2003

Michael Powell 445 12th Street, SW Washington, 20554

Re: Please Hear a Citizen's Voice on Media Diversity

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Mr. Powell:

I've been very alarmed at the trend we've already seen in recent years of the sources of news and public information via media being reduced in number, viewpoint, and variety. This not only reduces (and eventually eliminates) the free flow of information, the benefits of local competition and the power of a diverse marketplace which will virtually disappear, but gives control of so much that affects everyone to the powerful few with money. I am writing now to respectfully remind the members of the Federal Communications Commission that you are responsible for ensuring that the media "serve the public interest." I am concerned that if the FCC continues to relax regulations on media ownership, the victor will be big business--and the casualties will be the people of the U.S.

As a supporter of human rights, women's rights, and democracy, I am concerned that the current media merger free-for-all threatens to rob us all of the independent voices, views and ideas that nourish a pluralistic, democratic society and that help to assure an informed electorate and society. I'm a firm believe in the fact that the more diversity we hear, the better able we are to find a solid basis for our own beliefs and where we stand. This can only lead to improvement in life for all.

The media are more than just a business; they bring information to people that affects their lives. We cannot have a healthy democracy, and those who may be disadvantage have even fewer opportunities to pursue equal rights and make their own contribution as productive members of society, if unable to be informed on the issues. The media have a responsibility to serve the public interest and ensure that all voices are heard. I believe it is my job to speak out my concern and your job to promote this.

Please remember U.S. consumers and citizens when you review the remaining regulations. These regulations must be kept in place, and strengthened, not weakened. The few media giants already control far too much of our precious information resources.

Sincerely,

Sharon D. Kendrick

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Kendrick 4521-5B Terra Granada Dr. Walnut Creek, CA 94595

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